

# Sociologists Say Kissing is an Expression of Advanced Civilization.

**L**OVE has made men and women out of brutes, and the kiss is love's truest expression, according to the world's greatest sociologists. The kiss has brought souls together. It has made mothers prize their infants more than anything in the world, and it has taught fathers to understand that self-sacrifice made for one's family is a privilege. A worthy kiss means forgetfulness of self; it is born of love. It is that and more. It is a melodious song which love sings to a burning heart. It is the symbol of noblest things, great love, great sacrifice, great triumph. A kiss is a wonderful dynamic force, compelling and commanding. The number of souls it has ruined are few compared with those it has elevated and uplifted.

The origin of this word is significant. The Gothic *kustus* means test; the Latin *gustus* means taste; and the Anglo-Saxon *ecosan* signifies choice. The kiss had its origin in selection and adoration. Poets in all climes and ages have recognized its significance. A Latin epigram says that the dew of heaven is sweeter than mead, honey from Hybla is sweeter, nectar is sweeter than honey, but the kiss is the sweetest of all. The early French poets recognized its value, and in their pastorals always spoke of this expression of affection as a sweet kiss.

There are many kinds of kisses; some students of social customs say there are so many it is hard to recognize them all. The more conservative thinkers limit the number to five—recognizing love kisses, kiss of affection, peace, respect, and friendship. While the Romans classified all kisses into those of friendship and love.

However much they disagree on the kinds of kisses, they all believe it is through kisses that a knowledge of life and happiness first comes to us. A mirror may help us to know our physical selves, but it is only by the aid of another soul we are made acquainted with our higher selves, while the kiss teaches us the delight and value of this companionship. One poet expressed this truth happily when he said: "the angels rejoice over the first kiss exchanged by lovers." All folk poetry declares the kiss of lovers surpasses all others. The kiss of friends is expressive of sympathy, but it is in a lover's kiss we find the perfect blending of souls.

Man is the slave of the kiss. This expression of affection has purified and ennobled thousands who were once cruel and selfish. Although the lover's kiss must be given in a frank, joyous way, to be worthy, it cannot be promiscuous. A lover should reserve them for his sweetheart, a girl should bestow her kisses on him she holds most dear.

## Mother's Kiss Symbol of Purity.

Not all the love of the world is found in the lover's kiss. The kiss of parents to children may be less fascinating, but they are no less worthy. How tender is the kiss bestowed by a mother holding a tiny infant in her arms. More tender is the kiss bestowed by a mother when she forgives some wrongdoing of the child. Likewise man earns the title to noblest fatherhood when he kisses his wife and children before starting off to face some danger for them or his country. Just as splendid as was the Trojan war is the leave taking of the great warrior Hector



A MOTHER'S KISS.

when he lifts his little son up in his arms, but the child is afraid of his father's helmet, of the gleam of copper, and the nodding crest of horsehair—until

"From his brow  
Hector the casque removed and set it down  
All glittering on the ground, then kissed his child  
And danced him in his arms."

The old Norse sagas attributed irresistible power to parental kisses. One story tells of a mother who kisses her son and he forgets everything, even his betrothed, who is waiting for him in the forest.

## Kiss of Friendship Subtle.

Kissing of friends is more common with women than with men. The handshake is regarded as a worthy expression of friendship with men, but women feel that the kiss is a subtler expression of true joy and sorrow. The kiss of friendship is becoming less common, being reserved

for special occasions. The kiss of respect, of ancient origin, although allied closely with the kiss of friendship, almost has passed into disuse. In all countries at one time it was used by men as friendly greeting. The survival of this custom is found in the Austrian expression "Kuss die hand, gnädige Frau und Sarat Mana." In Roumania the promise is given, but the performance is rare. In France it was the custom for women to salute any visitor with a kiss whether he was an ambassador or a stranger.

Survivals of this well known practice are the kiss dance, common in Belgium, and the kissing feast known to the Magyar. In Belgium at weddings among the peasantry, if the bridal couple are willing, a man may kiss a girl every time he dances with her. More interesting still is the Magyar kissing feast, and it is just what it claims to be. The young people seal their vows with one, two, three—many times three kisses. This is the first time they have been guilty, though she has mocked him with her lips and kissed him with her eyes many times before. The kissing is done in public accompanied by happy music, laughing, and dancing.

Individuals of princely rank once expected the kiss of respect from their inferiors, but this custom is almost obsolete. A kiss was conferred as a formal mark of favor by crowned heads at fairs and tournaments. Princess Margaret, daughter of James I. of Scotland, kissed the poet Alain Chartier for saying so many nice things about her, though he was one of the ugliest men in the kingdom.

## To Show Their Fealty.

In the days of chivalry vassals paid homage to their lords by kissing them on their thigh; if the lord was away they kissed the door, the lock, or the bolt.

The kiss of peace was popular in bygone days. This kiss made friends of enemies, though it is seldom practiced in our prosaic age. This kiss often brought men together who had not spoken in years. The kiss of peace, respect, and salutation has passed away, but the lover's kiss, the kiss of parents and friends still remain. All peoples value kissing as an expression of affection, and it is only in savagery where kissing is unknown. Paolo Mantegazza, the great Italian psychologist, says: "Fear, religion, in-



"A REAL TEMPTATION"

terest, and space may separate lovers, but the kiss they have exchanged will hold them together."

## Some Nations Ignorant of Kiss.

For all this, kissing is unknown among the Malays, the dwellers of the Friendly Isles, the Andamans, the Fugians, the Papuans, Australians, and Somalis. The Malays express their feeling of endearment by touching noses. They say that much tenderness is expressed by bringing noses into contact. It is with the nose we breathe, and the bringing of noses together has great influence on the soul.

African husbands never kiss their wives. They would consider this too familiar an expression of endearment. A Mandingo wife, meeting her husband who has just returned home, throws herself on the ground as a token of greeting. In Loango the women kneel and as they rise they clap their hands.

The only thing that can rob kissing of its charm is the assertion made by physicians that kissing is dangerous and ought to be tabooed. Some say it is so dangerous that oculators ought to stop and think—that almost every infectious disease is brought in that way. Lovers must not kiss each other, and even mothers must not kiss their babies. If they cannot control themselves they should kiss the baby on the head.



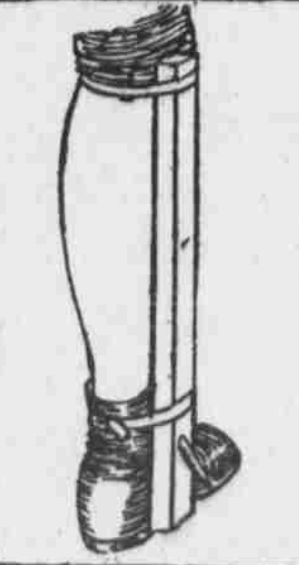
# FROM NEAR and FAR.

INDIAN CHIEF OF POLICE



Capt. Dave, to the left in the photograph, has been for some time the head of the police department of Pyramid Lake, Nev. Johnson Sides, who stands beside him, is a well known peace-maker between Indians and whites.

TO CLIMB A TREE.



The tree-climbers are made from two pieces of wood, each 15 inches long, 2 inches wide, and 1 inch thick. Three inches from the bottom drive a large nail, about four inches long. The nail is not to be driven into the wood at right angles, but slanting towards the bottom in such a way that the point coming out on the other side can be stuck into the tree. Then strap on your climbers, one on the inside of each leg, as shown in the picture, and climb.

TAX RECEIPT.



Every three years all Chinamen domiciled in Siam have to pay a small poll tax. When this has been paid the collector ties a string around the man's left wrist and fastens the knot with a special official seal. The bracelet is the Chinaman's receipt and it must be worn for one month.

WOMAN HODCARRIER.



The sex of this German hodcarrier is unmistakable, though she wears masculine attire. It is interesting to observe that she holds on to the handle of her hod just as she would hold on to the handle of a broom.

WEDDING IN DAHOMEY.



The amazons of less civilized days are wed in modern European garb.

SHOPPING IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.



Shopping was delightful and expensive for the women. The laces, trimmings, and embroideries of gold and silver which had come back into use were popular.

CAT'S NEST.



A French farmer, who kept a number of dogs and cats, constructed ingeniously, in order to protect the latter from the former, a veritable cat's nest, which he placed among the branches of a stunted oak tree.

CATHEDRAL CLOCK.



The clock in Exeter cathedral is 700 years old. The dial is seven feet in diameter. The dials show the time of day and the moon's age.



North sea fishermen use horses to help with the fishing, riding them into the sea and making them draw the nets toward shore.